

Sue Eldridge Ward: It's All Fun and Games



It's All Fun and Games, mixed media

- **11.10.17 - 12.31.17**
- **Opening Reception:**
Second Friday, November 10,
6 – 8 pm

Sue Eldridge Ward is a contemporary mixed media, self-taught artist. She started as a photographer, moved to ceramic sculpture, then expanded to fiber art and now works in digital print media. Her work is humanist, political, feminist and open to interpretation. Ward owes her comfort with artistic exploration to her parents who are also artists. Ward's interest in people and studies of sociology have had a major effect on her work in the arts. She

focuses on the expanding influence of media entertainment and how it confirms or detracts from philosophies of reality and fantasy.

Shortly after graduating from college, Ward moved to Manhattan where she took art classes and worked for an art store. After having her first child, the amount of laundry she was doing inspired her to create two- and three-dimensional art out of dryer lint. A few years later, she developed an interest in digital art and began to use gel medium to transfer prints to canvas. She appreciates the painterly effect that gel has on the canvas, as some of the ink doesn't get transferred over. To add contrast to her work, she paints figures with black and white nail polish.

Ward takes images from media sources: television, the internet, photographs, and digitally enhances them to create a collage, painting, or installation. She likes the slight discoloration and distortion of images found in the news and television, the abstraction is what interests her. The materials she uses are often purposefully pedestrian: computer print-outs, nail polish, and cardboard boxes.

I am interested in the expanding influence of mass media entertainment, its history, and how it confirms or detracts from our perceptions of reality and fantasy. We are drawn to drama; we love it and can't get enough of it. In particular, we seem to orbit around love and violence. Can we have one without the other – how are they intertwined? Is violence escapable or a necessary, natural condition that we all must endure and accept? Furthermore, how can we as a people protect the fragile and finite Earth while maintaining our natural instincts for violence and greed? I am inspired by the mundane, on the side of the road, at my desk job, in the Dollar Store.



The Sky Shall Unfold, mixed media

Being self-taught allows me the freedom to explore my environment unencumbered by convention and history. It all works! – Sue Eldridge Ward

Ward has lived in Baltimore, Los Angeles, and Brooklyn and currently resides in New Jersey with her husband and two teenage daughters. She has participated in many group and solo shows in the tristate area. Ward received a B.A. in Sociology from Occidental College in Los Angeles, and is a licensed insurance broker and sociologist.

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